

Final Abstract Number: 10.001

Session: *Ebola and Beyond: Preparing for the Next Pandemic*

Date: Thursday, March 3, 2016

Time: 15:45–17:45

Room: Hall 2

## India - National disaster and epidemic preparedness



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**Abstract:** History provides us several illustrations where epidemic outbreaks have led to biological disasters. Accidental or deliberate release of harmful micro-organisms can also lead to biological disasters. With the advent of bio-terrorism, there is a growing realisation that biological agents can also be used as weapons of mass destruction. The spread of Spanish Influenza of 1917–18, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) / Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Swine Flu (H1N1), Avian Influenza (H5N1), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), dengue, chikunguniya, Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the recent Zika outbreak in several countries tested the capacities of the public health delivery system in several countries.

In India, the spread of dengue, chikunguniya, swine flu, avian influenza in hitherto non-endemic regions in the past few years posed serious challenges to the health delivery architecture in the country. The fallout of the Methyl Iso Cyanide gas leak in the Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal in 1984, alleged plague outbreaks in Beed and Surat in 1994, the avian influenza outbreak in 2012 and 2013, swine flu in India in 2014 and 2015 have also been major challenges to the public health delivery systems in the affected areas. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India released the “National Disaster Management Guidelines on the Management of Biological Disasters” in July 2008. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also disseminated the Guidelines on Ebola like Guidelines for Safe Handling of Human Remains of Ebola Patients, Hospital Infection Control Guidelines, Ebola Virus Fact Sheet, Guidelines on Contact Tracing and Management of Contact, Guidelines for Sample Collection, Storage and Transportation, Guidelines for Clinical case Management, Guidelines for healthcare providers, Advisory for Travellers visiting Countries Affected with EVD, Advisory for Families Staying and Travellers Visiting Countries Affected with EVD, Advisory for Airlines on EVD, Health Alert on EVD for Display at Airports etc. In the aftermath of the spread of Zika virus, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India also released on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 “Guidelines for Integrated Vector Management for Control of Aedes Mosquito” and “Guidelines on Zika Virus Disease following Epidemic in Brazil and other countries of America” to strengthen preparedness and emergency response capacities in the event of any reported case of Zika virus in India.

The presentation provides an overview of issues related to the management of epidemics in India, including a critique on the levels of preparedness, emergency response capacities and the need for strengthening disease surveillance and monitoring of early warning signals.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2016.02.059>

**Type: Invited Presentation**

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## Influenza preparedness including H1N1



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**Abstract:** (no abstract received from presenter)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2016.02.060>

**Type: Invited Presentation**

Final Abstract Number: 10.003

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Date: Thursday, March 3, 2016

Time: 15:45–17:45

Room: Hall 2

## Conducting clinical trials in the outbreak setting - MSF's perspective



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**Abstract:** (no abstract received from presenter)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2016.02.061>